

Rural District Council

THE - ANNUAL REPORT

For 1925 - - - - of the

Medical Officer of Health

- NEATH -
Rural District Council



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NEATH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

15, ORCHARD STREET,

NEATH.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Neath Rural District Council.*

Mrs. Jones, and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Seventh Annual Report, the arrangement and form of which are in accordance with Circular 648 (Wales).

The Minister of Health requests the Council to direct the Annual Report of their Medical Officer of Health, for 1925, to be drawn up on the lines indicated in the Circular.

The Annual Report for 1925 is a Survey Report, and intended to deal at length with the progress made in the area during the preceding five years relative to housing, water-supply, sewerage, scavenging or refuse disposal, food inspection, maternity and child welfare schemes, provision of isolation hospitals, and other services directed to the prevention or cure of disease in individuals, as well as the organization or development of public health services contemplated by the Local Authority or considered desirable by the Medical Officer of Health.

The Death-rate for the year was 10·2 per 1,000 of the population—the lowest rate but one recorded in the last 15 years.

The Birth-rate for the year has been estimated at 22·6 per 1,000 of the population, and is the lowest figure recorded, with the exception of 1919, in the last 15 years.

The Infant Welfare Centres were started in your area in 1921; the number of attendances during that year cannot be taken as of any value for statistical purposes, as a fair number of children were brought to the Clinics at the commencement to give a good "send-off," as well as others who were under the impression that milk foods were supplied "gratis" by the Council. Since 1922, there has been an increase in attendances each year; it is very gratifying to find that since 1922 the number of attendances has increased by 100%.

I wish to thank the two Engineers of the Council for information supplied me regarding Housing, Water and Sewerage.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

J. GRIFFITHS,

Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

AREA.—The acreage, including Land and Inland Water, of the Neath Rural District was reduced in the latter part of 1921, from 55,869 to 53,218 acres, owing to the inclusion of the Parishes of Michaelstone Lower and Baglan Lower in the Borough of Port Talbot; it was again further reduced in the latter part of 1922, to 52,052 acres, by the inclusion of a portion of the Parish of Llantwit Lower—known as Melyn Ward—in the Borough of Neath.

The annexation of the Parishes of Michaelstone Lower and Baglan Lower carried with it a population of 6,883 (Census 1921), and the Melyn Ward of Llantwit Lower, a population of 4,357 (estimated).

The Census population of the two wards of Llantwit Lower are not separately given in the Returns, therefore “estimated” population is given for the Melyn Ward.

POPULATION.—The Census Population of 1921, was 48,219. The Registrar General’s estimated population for the purpose of calculation of Birth-rate and Death-rate, for the year 1925, is 40,080. The apparent decrease in population is not real, but due to loss of part of the district, as stated above.

The following table shows the growth of population since 1891:—

Census 1891 ....	....	....	....	24,397
Census 1901 ....	....	....	....	28,282
Census 1911 ....	....	....	....	41,613
Census 1921 ....	....	....	....	48,219
Estimated 1922 ....	....	....	....	42,226
Estimated 1923 ....	....	....	....	38,650
Estimated 1924 ....	....	....	....	39,650
Estimated 1925 ....	....	....	....	40,080

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE AREA.

The District comprises 14 Parishes, *viz.*, Baglan Higher, Blaengwrach, Blaenhonddan, Clyne, Coedffranc, Duffryn Clydach, Dulais Higher, Dulais Lower, Llantwit Lower, Michaelstone Higher, Neath Higher, Neath Lower, Resolven and Rhigos. The Parish of Ystradfellte, at the extreme north of the District, situate in the County of Brecon, is administered by the Neath Rural District Council; and inasmuch as it forms part of the watershed of the Rivers Neath and Dulais, it will be considered for the purpose of this Report in conjunction with the aforesaid 14 Parishes.

The District stretches from the seaboard—the Southern boundary—at Swansea Bay, in a North-Easterly direction, to a distance of some 20 miles, the Northern boundary is formed by the Parishes of Rhigos and Ystradfellte.

The East and West boundaries are formed by more or less parallel ranges of hills—broken here and there by tributary glens—which fall away and decrease in height as the sea is approached.

The width of the district is nowhere greater than 8 to 9 miles.

Running downwards towards the sea, through the middle of the district, is another range of hills, whose altitude also decreases similarly to those on the East and West, but terminating at Aberdulais.

It will thus be seen that the District, from its extreme North down to a point at Aberdulais, is divided into two narrow valleys, known as the Dulais and Neath Valleys respectively, and from there on to the sea continued as one, which is in reality a continuation of the Neath Valley.

On the Eastern boundary of the District it will be seen, on reference to the map, that the Parish of Michaelstone Higher and Baglan Higher form part of the Afan Valley.

The elevation of the district varies considerably as we proceed from North to South; the Agricultural areas to the extreme North, at Fan Fawr, have an elevation of 2,250 feet above sea-level; extreme West, at Varteg Hill, 1,160 feet; and extreme East, at Craig-y-bwlch, 1,250 feet.

The populated Industrial area in the Valleys has a much lower altitude than the Agricultural parts, the altitude gradually falling from North to South.

- 1.—DULAIS VALLEY.—Banwen and Duffryn Cellwen, 800 feet; Onllwyn, 797 feet; Seven Sisters, 650 feet; Crynant, 370 feet; Cilfrew, 250 feet.
- 2.—NEATH VALLEY.—Rhigos, 750 feet; Pontneathvaughan, 263 feet; Glynneath, 190 feet; Resolven, 110 feet; Melincourt, 120 feet; Tonna, 114 feet; Aberdulais, 36 feet; Cadoxton, 65 feet; Neath Abbey, 31 feet; Skewen, 158 feet.
- 3.—AFAN VALLEY.—Pontrhydyfen, 270 feet.

RIVERS.—The Rivers Neath and Dulais have their origins in the Highlands of Breconshire, in the Parish of Ystradfellte, and take a more or less South-Westerly direction in their course towards the sea through their respective valleys, the Dulais River joining the River Neath, and forming its chief tributary, at Aberdulais, some $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles above the mouth of the River Neath.

The River Neath, from its source down to Pontneathvaughan, where it is joined on the East by the River Mellte, is known as Nedd Fechan (little Neath), and from there onwards to the sea as the River Nedd (Neath). The main tributary of the Nedd Fechan is the Pyrddin, which joins it about a mile above its junction with the Mellte; both of these rivers have a considerable watershed of their own to the North and North-West of the District, and are supplemented by a great number of small tributaries.

The River Mellte is joined on the East by a fairly large tributary called the Hepste, about two miles above its junction with Nedd Fechan, and lower down by the Camnant which takes a course practically East and West. These three tributaries drain a large watershed to the North and East of the upper part of the District.

As above stated, the Neath River commences at Pontneathvaughan by the junction of Nedd Fechan and Mellte; on its onward journey to Swansea Bay it receives the Dulais River and numerous small brooks on its Northern side; the Gwrach brook at Blaengwrach, the Clydach Brook at Resolven, and the Melyncourt Brook at Resolven, on its Eastern side.

It is tidal up to within a quarter of a mile of its junction with the Dulais River, at Aberdulais.

The channel of the river leads out low-water mark of ordinary tides, the mouth being at least a distance of one mile below high-water mark of ordinary tides.

From its source to the sea it runs through a narrow steep valley, its course is somewhat swift, and therefore beneficial from a Public Health standpoint, as the river bed is washed, and especially so after heavy rains, of any pollution which may have gained access to it at any particular point through the carelessness or otherwise of the inhabitants residing in its vicinity.

The Dulais River, as already stated, takes its origin in the highlands of Ystradfellte, and takes a South-Westerly direction to its junction with the River Neath; it has a fairly large watershed of its own, and receives numerous small tributaries on both sides, the chief being Nanthir, at Seven Sisters, and Crynant Brook, at Crynant.

It is very rapid in its course owing to the gradient and steepness of the valley—the same remarks apply to this as those mentioned with regard to the Neath River.

Owing to the narrowness of these Valleys, there is a lack of sunshine on the one side of each; and unfortunately practically the whole of the population in the Dulais Valley dwell on the shaded side of the Valley; but in the Neath Valley, the population is more or less equally distributed. It can therefore be surmised that diseases and ailments due to lack of sunshine are more prevalent in the Dulais than the Neath Valley, especially when it is borne in mind that the houses from Crynant up to the top of the Dulais Valley are built upon clayey soil.

The District may be considered to be chiefly industrial, with the exception of the extreme North and the outlying boundaries to the East and West, which are Agricultural. The entire area within the County of Glamorgan is over an extensive underlying coalfield, and forms part of the South Wales Coalfield. It comprises Anthracite, Bituminous and Steam Coals, a very large proportion of which may almost be termed a maiden or un-worked coal-field, capable of extensive development, and when industrial disputes are settled between employers and employees, as well as the improvement of trade generally throughout the country, rapid development and prosperity can be anticipated.

Within the area also are extensive works—chiefly Oil Refineries, Steel, Copper, Tinplate, Spelter, Chemical, Engineering Works, Silica Brick and Building-brick Works.

The location of the manufacturing industries are chiefly, with few exceptions, in the south. The coal-field extends from north to south through the three valleys—the Dulais, on the west; the Vale of Neath, in the centre; and the Afan Valley on the east. The Agricultural area is chiefly engaged in Milk production, the milk being retailed by the farmers within the district.

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES.—The number of inhabited houses, according to 1921 Census, amounted to 8,947; the number vacant on the same night was 75.

The following table shows the number of Buildings, Dwellings, Rooms and Families on Census night of 1921 :—

	<i>Structurally separate dwellings occupied by private families, or vacant.</i>					
	<i>1-3 Rooms</i>	<i>4-5 Rooms</i>	<i>6-8 Rooms</i>	<i>9 or more Rooms</i>	<i>Total Dwellings</i>	<i>Total Rooms</i>
1.—Undivided Private Houses	690	3,496	4,349	190	8,725	46,904
2.—Structurally divided Private Houses.....	6	....	....	....	6	16
3.—Blocks of Flats, Tenements, etc. ....	....	....	....	....	....	....
4.—Shops	11	84	118	41	254	1,670
5.—Others (Offices, Hotels, Institutions, etc.)	10	8	17	2	37	195
TOTAL	717	3,588	4,484	233	9,022	48,785
Vacant on Census Night	4	25	44	2	75	424
Dwellings occupied by 1 Private Family	709	3,229	3,658	191	7,787	41,376
" " " 2 " Families	4	326	736	31	1,097	6,553
" " " 3 or more Private Families ....	....	8	46	9	63	432
Total Dwellings occupied by Private Families	713	3,563	4,440	231	8,947	48,361
" " " " " " %	8	40	49	3	100	....

Marital conditions existing on Census Night, 1921, in your district:—

	Males	Females.	
		All	Married only.
Total	25,136	23,083	9,068
Marital conditions—			
Single	15,122	12,700	....
Married	9,224	9,068	9,068
Widowed	782	1,311	....
Divorced	8	4	....
Ages (last birthday)—			
0-4	2,807	2,650	....
5-9	2,774	2,788	....
10-14	2,789	2,643	....
15-19	2,614	2,284	87
20-24	2,163	1,888	786
25-29	2,059	1,936	1,393
30-34	1,798	1,616	1,319
35-39	1,777	1,587	1,360
40-44	1,507	1,363	1,176
45-49	1,471	1,219	1,042
50-54	1,152	982	766
55-59	837	675	491
60-64	554	512	324
65-69	417	412	200
70-74	256	271	92
75-79	111	157	24
80-84	35	79	8
85-89	11	17	....
90-94	3	3	....
95 and over	1	1	....

It will be noted that (1) the population of "single" persons exceeds that of the married, widowed, and divorced; (2) the number of males in the first age group, exceeds that of females, but the contrary holds in the second age-group, *viz.*, 5 years and under 10; (3) the male population from the age of 10 up to 69 years is higher than the female population in each age-group; (4) the number of males of 70 years and over in each age-group is either lower or the same as that of females.

In the first age-group the preponderance of males over females is accounted for by the greater number of male births; in the second age-group the number of females exceeds that of males, owing to the heavier death-rate amongst males. In each quinquennial group, from the age of 10 up to 69, males again preponderate; the Rural District of Neath, like other industrial districts, contains a larger number of males than females—the opposite holds for England and Wales. Although heavier male death-rate would in the course of a few years succeed in equalising the sexes, the higher male population is attributed to immigration. At the age of 70 and upwards the greater vitality of the females becomes noticeable, and that in conjunction with the decrease in migration, the female population is in excess of that of the male population.

Rateable Value	....	....	....	....	£213,230
Sum represented by a penny rate	....	....	....	....	£888

The nature of the district as well as the chief industries have already been referred to. Analysis of the occupations is as follows:—

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females</i>
Fishermen	....	....
Agricultural Occupations	475	59
Mining and Quarrying	8,716	2
Makers of Coke, Lime, Cement, etc.	26	0
Makers of Bricks, Pottery, Glass	56	16
Workers in Chemicals, Paints, etc.	149	2
Metal Workers	2,078	253
Workers in Precious Metals	0	0
Electrical Apparatus Makers, Fitters, etc.	138	0
Makers of Watches, etc.	3	0
Workers in Skins, Leather Goods Makers	0	9
Textile Workers	5	14
Makers of Textile Goods and Articles of Dress	73	299
Makers of Foods, Drinks and Tobacco	78	8
Workers in Wood, etc.	198	0
Paper Workers, Printers, etc.	9	2
Builders, Bricklayers, etc.	523	3
Painters and Decorators	64	4
Workers in other Materials	0	0
Workers in mixed and undefined materials	67	2
Persons in Gas, Water, Electricity Supply	18	0
Transport Workers	809	26
Commercial and Financial Occupations	556	360
Public Administration and Defence	153	37
Professional Occupations	252	300
Persons employed in Entertainments	22	7
Persons employed in Personal Service	130	830
Clerks, Draughtsmen, Typists, etc.	275	98
Warehousemen, etc.	57	7
Stationary Engine Drivers, etc.	479	0
All other occupations	954	26
Total occupied	16,372	2,355
Unoccupied and Retired	2,088	14,218
Total occupied and unoccupied	18,460	16,573

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

BIRTHS.—According to the Registrar-General, the total number of births registered during the year amounted to 907 (466 males, 441 females).

The number of births, *i.e.*, 907, corresponds to an annual birth-rate of 22·6 per 1,000 of the population.

DISTRIBUTION (SEXES—LEGITIMACY).

					<i>Births</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Totals</i>
Legitimate	....	....	....	....	....	448	426	874
Illegitimate	....	....	....	....	....	18	15	43
						466	441	907
					Totals			
				

The proportion of male to female births is 1,056—1,000.

The percentage of illegitimate births is 3·6 as compared with 2·3 for the previous year.

The number of Births and Birth-rates (since 1911) for the Neath Rural District Area are shown in the following table :—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Births</i>	<i>Birth-rate</i>
1911	1,297	30·9
1912	1,373	31·7
1913	1,335	29·8
1914	1,460	32·5
1915	1,324	29·4
1916	1,168	25·7
1917	1,097	23·1
1918	1,140	24·9
1919	1,089	22·1
1920	1,450	29·9
1921	1,373	28·5
1922	1,025	24·2
1923	953	24·6
1924	903	22·7
1925	907	22·6

COMPARISON OF BIRTH-RATES WITH RATES FOR COUNTRY GENERALLY:—

											<i>Per 1,000 Total Population</i>
England and Wales	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	18·3
105 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	18·8
157 Smaller Towns (1921 adjusted populations, 20,000-50,000)	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	18·3
London	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	18·0
N.R.D. (Glam.)	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	22·6

DEATHS.—The number of deaths during the year amounted to 411, out of this total 210 were males, and 201 females.

Deaths	Males	Females	Total	Death-rate
....	210	201	411	10·2

The deaths at all ages for the year were as follows:—

Under one year	81	or 19·7 %
One and under Two years	23	„ 5·4 %
Two and under Five years	16	„ 3·8 %
Five and under Fifteen years	18	„ 4·3 %
Fifteen and under Twenty-five years	39	„ 9·4 %
Twenty-five and under Forty-five years	56	„ 13·6 %
Forty-five and under Sixty-five years	81	„ 19·7 %
Sixty-five and upwards	97	„ 23·6 %

Coroners' Inquests were held respecting 32 deaths, *i.e.*, 7·7% of the total deaths (411) during the year, the causes of death were as follows:—

<i>Causes of Death</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Enteric Fever	0	0	0
Small-pox	0	0	0
Measles	5	8	13
Scarlet Fever	1	0	1
Whooping Cough	1	3	4
Diphtheria	2	1	3
Influenza	4	4	8
Encephalitis Lethargica	0	0	0
Meningococcal Meningitis	0	0	0
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	10	19	29
Other Tuberculous Diseases	8	3	11
Cancer, Malignant Disease	17	25	42
Rheumatic Fever	2	4	6
Diabetes	0	5	5
Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.	17	15	32
Heart Disease	20	11	31
Arterio-Sclerosis	0	1	1
Bronchitis	16	17	33
Pneumonia (all forms)	14	11	25
Other Respiratory Diseases	4	4	8
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1	0	1
Diarrhoea, etc (under 2 years)	5	3	8
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	0	0	0
Cirrhosis of Liver	0	0	0
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	3	6	9
Puerperal Fever	0	1	1
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	0	5	5
Congenital Debility and Malformation			
Premature Birth	22	10	32
Suicide	1	1	2
Other Deaths from Violence	19	6	25
Other defined Diseases	37	38	75
Causes ill-defined or unknown	1	0	1
Total	210	201	411

TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.—48 deaths occurred outside the District, *i.e.*, being persons belonging to this district. These 48 are included in the total number of deaths (411) stated above.

Six deaths occurred within the district among persons belonging to other districts. These have been transferred to the districts concerned, and are not included in the total number of deaths (411) for the Neath Rural District.

DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS :—

County Asylum, Newcastle Higher	....	....	....	....	5
Memorial Hospital, Cimla	....	....	....	....	3
Swansea General Hospital	....	....	....	....	24
Adelina Patti Hospital, Penycae	....	....	....	....	1
Penrhiewtyn Hospital	....	....	....	....	7
47, The Walk	....	....	....	....	1
County Asylum, Coity Higher, Penybont	....	....	....	....	3
Cottage Hospital, Port Talbot	....	....	....	....	1
Fountain Temporary Mental Hospital, Wandsworth	....	....	....	....	1
Aberdare and District General Hospital	....	....	....	....	1
Temperance House, Coelbren	....	....	....	....	1
					—
					48
					—

The number of Deaths and Death-rates (since 1911) for the Neath Rural District are shown in the following table :—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Death-rate</i>
1911	614	14·6
1912	520	12·0
1913	599	13·4
1914	560	12·5
1915	610	14·2
1916	553	13·2
1917	480	11·3
1918	598	14·7
1919	534	11·3
1920	563	11·6
1921	542	11·2
1922	491	11·6
1923	421	10·8
1924	389	9·8
1925	411	10·2

SEASONAL DEATH-RATE.—The following table gives the Deaths and Death-rate for each quarter of the year.

	<i>No. of Deaths</i>				<i>Death-rate</i>
First Quarter	111	11·0
Second Quarter	112	11·1
Third Quarter	80	7·9
Fourth Quarter	108	10·7

INFANT MORTALITY.—There were 81 deaths of Infants under one year in the district during the year. This corresponds to an Infant Mortality of 89 per 1,000 Births.

Two deaths occurred among illegitimate infants under one year.

The Infant Mortality Rates (since 1911) for the Neath Rural District (Glam.) are shown in the following table:—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Births</i>	<i>Deaths Under 1 year</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 Births</i>
1911	1,297	196	151
1912	1,373	123	90
1913	1,335	159	119
1914	1,460	151	103
1915	1,324	149	113
1916	1,168	130	111
1917	1,097	87	79
1918	1,140	106	93
1919	1,089	97	89
1920	1,450	134	92
1921	1,373	101	73
1922	1,025	92	89
1923	953	77	80
1924	903	72	80
1925	907	81	89

DEATHS FROM “PRINCIPAL EPIDEMIC” DISEASES.—The seven “Principal Epidemic” Diseases caused 29 deaths.

Small-pox	....	....	....	0
Measles	....	....	....	13
Scarlet Fever	....	....	....	1
Diphtheria	....	....	....	3
Whooping Cough	....	....	....	4
Enteric Fever	....	....	....	0
Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years)				8
				—
				29
				—

ZYMOTIC DISEASES DEATH-RATES (since 1911) for the Neath Rural District (Glam.) are shown in the following table :—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Total Deaths</i>	<i>Deaths from Zymotic Diseases</i>	<i>Zymotic Diseases Death-rate</i>
1911	614	97	2·31
1912	520	74	1·70
1913	599	84	1·87
1914	560	45	1·00
1915	610	58	1·35
1916	553	40	0·95
1917	480	30	0·77
1918	598	21	0·51
1919	534	28	0·59
1920	563	30	0·61
1921	542	32	0·66
1922	491	24	0·56
1923	421	24	0·62
1924	389	13	0·32
1925	411	29	0·72

Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years) Death-Rates per 1,000 Births (since 1911) for the Neath Rural District (Glam.) are shown in the following table :—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Total Births</i>	<i>Deaths (under 2 years) from Diarrhoea & Enteritis</i>	<i>Death-Rate per 1,000 Births</i>
1911	1,297	54	41·63
1912	1,373	15	10·92
1913	1,335	42	31·46
1914	1,460	17	11·64
1915	1,324	13	9·81
1916	1,168	13	11·13
1917	1,097	2	1·82
1918	1,140	4	3·50
1919	1,089	13	11·93
1920	1,450	9	6·20
1921	1,373	11	8·00
1922	1,025	4	3·90
1923	953	5	5·24
1924	903	5	5·53
1925	907	8	8·82

POOR LAW RELIEF, ETC.—The amount of Poor Law Relief, and the extent to which hospital and other forms of gratuitous medical aid are utilized, for the Neath Rural District, are unobtainable separately from that of the Neath Union.

During the period under review the principal causes of sickness or invalidity was due to overcrowding. In the mining districts, as will be referred to under "HOUSING," the larger number of workmen's houses had as many as three families living in them, and owing to three shifts working of the collieries, it frequently happened the beds and rooms were occupied during the twenty-four hours.

Pit-head baths and drying rooms are greatly needed, especially in view of the shortage of houses, with its overcrowding, and lack of facilities at the homes for bathing and drying of the clothes of the miners, who often have to remain in damp or wet clothes for a considerable time before they have the opportunity of changing into clean, dry clothes, to say nothing of the difficulties which the wives have to contend with regarding the cleanliness and general comfort of the home.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

There are no hospitals provided or subsidized by the Neath Rural District Council or by the County Council respecting Tuberculosis, Maternity, Children, Fever, Small-pox, etc., for the District, but sanction was recently obtained from the Ministry of Health concerning the Darren Site as an Infectious Disease Joint Hospital for the Rural District and Borough of Neath.

There is no Institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children in the area excepting the Cottage Homes, which is maintained by the Board of Guardians.

Ambulance facilities for infectious cases are not provided inasmuch as Infectious Diseases, in the absence of an Hospital, are isolated and treated at the homes.

The Rural District and the Borough of Neath have jointly provided ambulances for non-infectious and accident cases.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.—The only centres provided by the Rural District Council are the Maternity and Child Welfare. The School Clinics and Treatment Centres for Venereal Diseases are administered by the County Council of Glamorgan, and the Tuberculosis Dispensaries and Visiting Stations by the Welsh National Memorial Association.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRES:—

<i>District</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>No. of Rooms</i>
Skewen	United Methodist Vestry, New Road	Two
Seven Sisters	Reading Room	Two
Glynneath	National School, Pontneathvaughan Road	Two
Resolven	Jerusalem Chapel Vestry, Neath Road	Three
Aberdulais	Baptist Chapel Vestry	Two *
Llandarcy	National Oil Refineries Workmen's Institute	One

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.—All Officers employed by the Council are full-time Officers

J. Griffiths, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.	....	....	Medical Officer of Health.
Sidney McNeil, C.R.S.I.	....	....	Sanitary Officer.
Wm. Williams	....	....	"
Grace H. James, Registered State Nurse, C.M.B. Cert., H.V. Cert. (R.S.I.)	....	....	Health Visitor
Olive Lewis, C.M.B. Cert., H.V. Cert. (R.S.I.)	....	....	"
Margaret Jones, Registered State Nurse, C.M.B. Cert., H.V. Cert. (R.S.I.)	....	....	"
David F. Jones, C.R.S.I.	....	....	Clerk.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.—No arrangements by the Council or County Council are existent for the nursing in the home of cases under the following headings:—

- (a) General.
- (b) Measles, etc.

MIDWIVES.—The midwives Act is administered by the County Council. The number of Midwives practising in the District is 20 (17 trained, 3 untrained).

The Chemical work for the District is carried out by the Glamorgan County Council.

The following are results of Analysis of Sewage and Sewage Effluents during the year:

ANALYSIS OF TINPLATE EFFLUENTS.

Results are stated in parts of 100,000.

<i>Date collected</i>	<i>Effluent</i>	<i>River or Stream discharged into</i>	<i>Acidity free Sulphuric</i>	<i>Ferrous Sulphate</i>	<i>Approximate Dilution</i>
24th January, 1925	Clyne	Neath	Practically nil	1.2	2,000
21st March, 1925	Clyne	Neath	36.2	12.2	2,000
18th April, 1925	Clyne	Neath	2.0	.8	2,000
9th May, 1925	Clyne	Neath	2.0	1.2	2,000
8th June, 1925	Clyne	Neath	Practically nil	1.6	2,000
4th July, 1925	Clyne	Neath	Practically nil	167.0	1,500
8th August, 1925	Clyne	Neath	Practically nil	3.4	1,500
9th September, 1925	Clyne	Neath	Practically nil	5.0	1,500
10th October, 1925	Clyne	Neath	21.6	3.4	1,500
14th November, 1925	Clyne	Neath	5.8	1.0	1,500
14th December, 1925	Clyne	Neath	Practically nil	1.0	1,500

The following are results of Analysis of Sewage and Sewage Effluents during the year :

RESULTS ARE STATED IN PARTS PER 100,000.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Description of Sample</i>	<i>Organic Suspended Matter</i>	<i>Organic Ammonia</i>	<i>Putrescibility</i>	<i>Dissolved Oxygen Consumed</i>	<i>Nitrogen as Nitrates</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
30/12/24	Crude Sewage Glynneath	Considerable amount	1.72	.60	...	...
30/12/24	Effluent, Glynneath	Small amount	.09	...	1.60	.62	Good
1/1/25	Crude Sewage Seven Sisters	Considerable amount	3.40	3.70	...	...
1/1/25	Effluent, Seven Sisters	Small amount	1.76	.30	7.60	Practically nil	Unsatisfactory
10/2/25	Crude Sewage Resolven	Considerable amount	.48	.50	...	...
10/2/25	Effluent, Resolven	Fair amount	.13	...	3.08	Practically nil	Moderate
6/3/25	Crude Sewage Seven Sisters	Considerable amount	.84	.65	...	...
6/3/25	Effluent, Seven Sisters	Traces only	.12	...	2.96	Practically nil	Fairly good
16/3/25	Crude Sewage Glynneath	Large amount	1.68	.60	...	...
16/3/25	Effluent, Glynneath	Small amount	.22	.09	2.80	Practically nil	Moderate
27/3/25	Crude Sewage Resolven	Large amount	.88	1.40	...	...
27/3/25	Effluent, Resolven	Fair amount	.34	.65	6.40	.08	Unsatisfactory
27/3/25	Crude Sewage Glynneath	Large amount	.40	1.35	...	...
27/3/25	Effluent, Glynneath	Fair amount	.27	.64	6.24	.10	Unsatisfactory
14/4/25	Crude Sewage Seven Sisters	Large amount	.32	5.06	...	...
14/4/25	Effluent, Seven Sisters	Traces only	.09	.12	1.68	.04	Fairly good
14/5/25	Crude Sewage Seven Sisters	Considerable amount	1.40	1.45	...	...
14/5/25	Effluent Seven Sisters	Small amount	.05	.20	3.28	Practically nil	Moderate
25/6/25	Crude Sewage Glynneath	Considerable amount	...	1.75	...	...
25/6/25	Effluent Glynneath	Small amount	.07	.13	1.30	.82	Fairly good
9/7/25	Crude Sewage Resolven	Considerable amount	...	1.05	...	...
9/7/25	Effluent, Resolven	Small amount	.12	Nil	1.20	.08	Good

<i>Date</i>	<i>Description of Sample</i>	<i>Organic Suspended matter</i>	<i>Organic Ammonia</i>	<i>Putrescibility</i>	<i>Dissolved Oxygen consumed</i>	<i>Nitrogen as Nitrates</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
14/7/25	Crude Sewage Seven Sisters	Fair amount	...	7.40	...	...
14/7/25	Effluent, Seven Sisters	Appreciable amount	.08	.30	3.96	Practically nil	Moderate
1/10/25	Crude Sewage Glynneath	Considerable amount	...	1.50	...	...
1/10/25	Effluent, Glynneath	Small amount	.06	Nil	.72	Practically nil	Fairly good
15/10/25	Crude Sewage Resolven	Considerable amount	...	1.43	...	...
15/10/25	Effluent, Resolven	Small amount	.31	Nil	2.16	.06	Fairly good
11/11/25	Crude Sewage Seven Sisters	Considerable amount	...	Nil	...	...
11/11/25	Effluent, Seven Sisters	24.2	.21	.76	4.88	Practically nil	Unsatisfactory
12/11/25	Crude Sewage Glynneath	Large amount	...	2.04	...	...
12/11/25	Effluent, Glynneath	Appreciable amount	.13	Nil	2.72	2.16	Fairly good
19/11/25	Crude Sewage Resolven	Considerable amount	...	1.70	...	...
19/11/25	Effluent, Resolven	Appreciable amount	.22	.40	6.88	.88	Moderate
4/12/25	Crude Sewage Seven Sisters	Considerable amount	...	1.18	...	...
4/12/25	Effluent, Seven Sisters	Small amount	.036	Nil	1.42	.02	Fairly good
12/12/25	Crude Sewage Glynneath	Large amount	...	1.36	...	...
12/12/25	Effluent, Glynneath	Appreciable amount	.15	.28	7.04	Practically nil	Moderate

LEGISLATION IN FORCE :—

(1) LOCAL ACTS.

Ystradfellte Water Act, 1902.

Ystradfellte Water Act, 1912.

(2) ADOPTIVE ACTS.

Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890.

Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1890 (Part 3).

Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1907 (Parts 2, 3, 4, and 5).

Public Health Act, 1875, Sections 44, 45, 90, 160 and 161 (first paragraph).
 Section 169 (excepting so much as relates to the provision of Slaughter-houses). Sections 170 and 171 (Sub-sections 2 and 4).

(3) BYE-LAWS.

Date of Adoption.

(a) Streets and Buildings	....	....	....	....	....	18th April, 1881.
(b) Nuisances (arising from snow, filth, dust, ashes, and rubbish and for the prevention of the keeping of animals on any premises so as to be injurious to health)	....	....	....	....	....	„
(c) Slaughter-houses	....	....	....	....	....	„
(d) Common Lodging-houses	....	....	....	....	....	„
(e) The cleansing of footways and pavements, the removal of house refuse, the cleansing of earth-closets, privies, ash-pits and cesspools	„

(4) REGULATIONS.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	27th July, 1887.
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SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER.—The water supply for the whole of the Council's area, with the exception of the northern parts of the parish of Rhigos and the parish of Baglan Higher, is supplied from the Council's Ystradfellte Water Scheme situate in the extreme north of the area, the storage reservoir having a capacity of 700 million gallons at an elevation of 1,200 feet above sea level or ordnance datum. The supply is gravitated throughout the Neath and Dulais Valleys by means of trunk mains, which supply the various storage reservoirs situate adjacent to the populated centres, and from those positions conveyed by distribution mains for the supply of the inhabitants in each township or village.

The supply is abundant and constant, the quality pure and free from contamination. The whole area of the watershed, comprising an area of 3,320 acres of clean grazing land, is used as a mountain sheepwalk only.

The Ystradfellte Water Works provides a supply to a population of 36,943 within the Council's area, residing in dwelling-houses of various types. It can be reasonably stated that 97% of the houses within the area are supplied direct into their own curtilage. The total number of pillar taps does not exceed 20, and these are only tolerated by reason of the high cost of house connection through rock excavation.

The parish of Rhigos is supplied from two sources, *viz.*, Llynfawr Reservoir (Rhondda Urban Council) and Tynewydd Reservoir Penderyn (Mountain Ash Urban Council), which supply is not constant, owing to the heavy draw off at the low-lying areas of the Mountain Ash district.

The inhabitants of Baglan Higher, Tonmawr, are supplied from local springs distributed by pillar taps along the public roads.

None of the water supplied by the Council from any source is found to be liable to have plumbo-solvent action, both best quality galvanized piping and lead services are used at the option of the owner for house services.

Periodical samples of water are taken at various places within the district for the purpose of analysis, in order to detect any form of contamination.

The distribution of water is carried out by mains laid through all main streets and roads for the purpose of providing a house to house supply at high pressure. Fire Hydrants and valves are provided on all mains for the protection of properties from fire.

It is estimated that the average supply per head per day of the population within the area is equal to 20 gallons.

Considerable quantities of water is also supplied for industrial purposes to various works within the district by meter, in bulk, under various Agreements.

Under the Borough Extension Order, 1921, the Parish of Michaelstone Lower (Cwmavon), part of the Port Talbot area, is supplied by this Council to the maximum of 20 gallons per head per day, for the estimated population of 6,199.

This Council also supplies the Port Talbot Corporation during the period from 1st April to 18th October, with a minimum quantity of 20 million gallons, and a maximum of 40 million gallons per annum by Agreement.

The Corporation of Neath are supplied by this Council with a continuous daily supply of water for the high level area of the town, delivered at Cimla, in bulk by meter.

A further supply is also afforded in bulk from the Council's mains for other parts of the town, based upon a minimum quantity of 33 $\frac{3}{4}$ million gallons during the period from 1st April to 18th October in any year, considered to be the dry period of the year.

New services have been laid during the current year.

During the year, all houses have been inspected for the purpose of ascertaining the conditions of the domestic water fittings, also the nature and condition of the supply provided for sanitary purposes; in all cases where found to be defective, minor repairs are done by the Inspector at once. In such cases as may be necessary, notices are served upon the owners to have the work carried out within seven days.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.—The chief source of pollution to either rivers or streams is caused by colliery water, to a limited extent. The Glamorgan County Council periodically take samples and report respecting its chemical and bacteriological findings. Attention is called to those liable, from time to time, but, in all cases, it is most difficult to contend with, without seriously affecting the industries. It can safely be said that similar pollution exists throughout the whole of the mining valleys of the County.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE—PONTRHYDYFEN (MICHAELSTONE HIGHER).

The whole of the populated area of Pontrhydyfen and Efail Fach, within the Parish of Michaelstone Higher, has been provided with a system of sewerage throughout.

1,760 yards of 9-in. earthenware pipes have been laid, also 3,060 yards of 6-in. pipes, provided with all necessary manholes, flushing chambers, overflow chambers ventilating shafts and other necessary appurtenant works.

At the outfall, the sewage is conveyed into a storage tank, and gauge chamber, forming a connection with the Afan Valley Trunk Sewer, by Agreement with the Glyn-corrwg Urban District Council. The trunk sewer has a direct outlet to the sea, at Port Talbot.

The owners of all the houses within reasonable distance of the sewer have been served with notice to connect their premises, under the Public Health Act, 1875. Since 1923, and at the present time, it is estimated that out of 239 houses over 200 are now connected to the sewer. The remaining properties originally belonged to the Trustees of the Jersey Estate, who have sold their houses at nominal value to each of the old tenants. Since becoming owners, they are carrying out the sewer connections.

The houses in this area being scattered and erected on the mountain side has made it expensive to provide sewer connections. The work has also been considerably delayed owing to a long period of depression and unemployment at the local collieries, where the residents are chiefly employed.

The sanitary conditions of this area have been considerably improved, every house being provided with separate water supply, and every effort is made by the residents to improve the conditions as far as possible.

WORK CARRIED OUT IN SANITARY DEPARTMENT DURING 1925.

COEDFFRANC.

The extension of the sewers to the extreme end of the District ("Bowen Arms," Lonlas) has been carried out, and the following work completed :—

547 Lin. yards	9-in. Stoneware Sewers.
150 "	6-in. " "
12 Manholes.	

The extension of the sewer to Helens Road, Drymma, has been carried out, and the following works completed :—

344 Lin. yards	9-in. Stoneware Sewers.
66 "	6-in. " "
10 Manholes.	

JERSEY MARINE SEWERS.

The scheme for the sewerage of this District has been proceeded with, and completed, with the exception of a few lengths of sewer and the laying of the syphon under the Tennant Canal.

The following works have been carried out :—

112 Lin. yards	12-in. Cast-iron Sewers
200 "	9-in. " "
696 "	9-in. Stoneware Sewers.
274 "	6-in. " "
21 Manholes.	
2 Settling Tanks.	

ABERDULAIS (JOINT) SEWERS.

The Scheme for the sewerage of the Aberdulaish District, comprising Cefn-yr-allt, Aberdulaish and Tonna Uchaf, has been carried out and almost completed, with the exception of a small section of sewer at Tonna Uchaf, and the laying of the syphon under the Tennant Canal, at Aberdulaish.

The following work has been completed :—

2,300 Lin. yards	9-in. Stoneware Sewers.
520 "	6-in. " "
61 Manholes.	

During the year the following Schemes have been prepared :—

RHIGOS, NEATH HIGHER AND BLAENGWRACH.—A scheme for the sewerage of the Aberdare Road and Pontwalby districts has been prepared, the sanction of the Ministry of Health has been received and the work of construction will shortly be proceeded with.

GLYNNNEATH.—A scheme for the extension of the existing sewers to drain the Council's houses now being built upon the Main Road has also been approved by the Ministry of Health and will shortly be proceeded with.

DULAIS VALLEY SEWERAGE.—The Council have given instructions and the Survey is now being proceeded with for the sewerage of the Dulais Valley. This scheme is to embrace the following districts:—Banwen, Onllwyn, Seven Sisters and Crynant.

The following Districts are sewerage:—

<i>District.</i>	<i>Outfall.</i>
Jersey Marine	Swansea Bay.
Skewen and Neath Abbey	Neath River (Tidal).
Cadoxton	" " "
Aberdulais and District	" " "
Tonna	" " "
Resolven	Treatment Works Effluent to Neath River.
Glynneath and District	" " "
Seven Sisters	" Dulais River.
Duffryn (Onllwyn)	" Camnant Brook.

The above sewers deal with the more populous Districts of the Area, with the exception of the following:—Bryncoch, Cilfrew and Crynant.

With regard to Bryncoch and Cilfrew, schemes have been prepared for the sewerage of these districts, and have been approved of by the Ministry of Health.

With regard to Crynant, this district will be embraced in the new scheme being prepared for the Dulais Valley, and also the district of Duffryn, Onllwyn and Seven Sisters.

The following table gives the analysis of the sanitary circumstances of each Parish within the Neath Rural Area.

PARISH	Total Separate Dwellings	Water Carr. System to Sewer	Water Carriage System to C.P. & Dis-used Pits	Slop Water System only. (Drain to C.P.)	Pail Closets	Earth Closets	No Drains
Baglan Higher ..	98	0	1	97	97	0	0
Mich'stone H'her	286	216	0	43	70	0	27
Dulais Higher	1,094	607	16	463	401	70	8
(a) Dulais Lower	150	0	21	129	129	0	0
Neath Higher	768	538	11	219	186	33	0
Neath Lower	110	0	5	105	105	0	0
Resolven	758	698	0	60	60	0	0
Rhigos	276	0	7	251	269	0	18
Blaengwrach	167	97	1	69	69	0	0
(a) Tonna	250	188	1	61	61	0	0
Clyne	193	0	3	186	190	0	4
Duffryn Clydach	404	307	12	85	85	0	0
(a) Blaenhonddan ..	780	350	56	363	368	6	11
(b) Coedffranc	1,847	1,758	19	70	70	0	0
	7,181	4,759	153	2,201	2,160	109	68

(a) The sewer for the Aberdulais Joint Scheme is completed. There are 71 houses in the Parish of Dulais Lower; 44 houses in Blaenhonddan (22 of which now drain into the River) and 18 houses in the Parish of Tonna will be connected to this sewer in the near future.

(b) The Jersey Marine scheme is also completed; the 48 houses at Jersey Marine will shortly be linked up to the sewer, thus leaving only 22 houses (farm houses and isolated cottages) in the Parish of Coedffranc unsewered.

SCAVENGING.

SCAVENGING.—It is only within the area of the Parish of Coedffranc, where the work is done by motor lorry, that the collection and disposal of refuse can be considered satisfactory. Throughout the remaining parishes and populated areas, the work is let by Contract, frequently to the lowest tender. The collection is made by team labour (horse and cart) at intermittent periods. Owing to the Contractor passing through the streets and roads at irregular hours, the householder is often unable to have the refuse receptacle properly cleared, with the result that the refuse is upset over the roads and footpath. Stringent measures are taken to compel the Contractors to carry out their Contract by the employment of additional team labour, which is charged against the Contractor.

Experience has proved that a system of direct labour for the cleaning of all refuse is certainly more satisfactory than any contract system parochially. This is clearly demonstrated throughout the entire district where contract work is adopted, heaps of refuse is left upon roadsides in all directions.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

(a) Number of Inspections made during the year :—

<i>Nature of Visits.</i>	<i>Number</i>
<i>Re</i> Cases of Infectious Diseases	222
General District Inspections	880
To Common Lodging Houses	14
„ Factories	68
„ Workshops and Bakehouses	270
„ Picture Halls	55
„ Barber Shops	108
„ Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	540
„ Stables	260
„ Piggeries	180
„ Provision, Butcher, Fish and Fruit, Fish and Ice-Cream Shops	542
„ Scavenging Dumps	280
„ Slaughter-houses	316
„ House to House Inspections	220
„ Public Houses	120
„ Urinals	176
Visits to Owners <i>re</i> Notices	89
<i>Re</i> Rats and Mice	42
	<hr/> 4,382 <hr/>

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FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

<i>Premises</i> (1)	<i>Number of</i>		
	<i>Inspections</i> (2)	<i>Written Notices</i> (3)	<i>Occupiers prosecuted</i> (4)
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	68	5	....
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	201	45	....
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' Premises)	69	....	....
Total	338	50	....

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects			Number of offences in respect to which Prosecutions were instituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
NUISANCES UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS—				
Want of cleanliness	20	20	....	....
Want of ventilation ....	....	....	....	....
Overcrowding ....	....	....	....	....
Want of drainage of floors ....	....	....	....	....
Other nuisances	12	12	....	....
Sanitary accommodation { insufficient	1	....	....	....
{ unsuitable or defective	17	17	....	....
{ not separate for sexes ....	....	....	....	....
OFFENCES UNDER FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACTS—				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101) ....	....	....	....	....
Other offences ....	....	....	....	....
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921).				
Total	50	49	....	....

The total number of inspections to Factories, Workshops and Workplaces are included in that part of the Report which deals with Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The twenty instances under the heading of "want of cleanliness" were discovered in Bakehouses.

SCHOOLS.—There are 21 Public Schools (Elementary) within the District ; 20 provided and 1 non-provided.

In the case of notifiable infectious diseases, exclusion certificates are forwarded to the Head Teachers, regarding actual cases and contacts, with instructions that these children shall not be re-admitted until resumption certificates are sent. These latter are sent after freedom from infection has been vouched for by a medical certificate, and disinfection of the house carried out.

Negative swabs are required for Diphtheria.

The School Medical Officer of the County is informed of all Notifiable infectious diseases occurring amongst school children, and of any action taken regarding the spread of infection.

During the year, no outbreak occurred necessitating the closure of any of the schools.

All the schools have the public water-supply, and all, with the exception of those where no sewer exists, have water-closets and urinals with proper flushing arrangements.

HOUSING.

(I.) GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS IN THE AREA.

(1) The general housing conditions cannot be stated as being satisfactory, from many standpoints, for the reason that, comparatively speaking, there does not seem on the part of the working classes that earnest desire to provide for themselves their own house to live in, although greater advantages are now offered by way of financial assistance, *viz.*, (a) by obtaining the Subsidy free gift of £100 from the Local Authority, and (b) assistance by way of loan under the Small Dwellings Acquisition Act, subject to repayment of capital by easy instalments, covering a period up to 30 years, and interest upon reasonable terms. Although offered these advantages, there does not appear to be that spirit of self-dependence on the part of the worker to live in his own house, but he would rather suffer the discomfort of living in overcrowded apartments, frequently having to pay charges far higher than would be incurred by the acquisition of his own house with ample accommodation for his family.

The foregoing remarks apply generally throughout the whole area, but in some Parishes far greater than others, especially where collieries are working full time.

(2) (a) EXTENT OF SHORTAGE OR EXCESS OF HOUSES.

The subject of the shortage of houses cannot be dealt with from a parochial standpoint, for the reason that such conditions are governed by the conditions of available employment in each parish or district.

The shortage of houses exists in a greater or lesser degree in almost every parish within the Council's area, but chiefly in the populated centres adjoining the Anthracite Collieries situate in the Parishes of Neath Higher, Rhigos, Resolven, Dulais Higher and Lower, owing to the increasing and regular demand for this class of coal and the regular employment of workmen. The natural tendency of the worker is to live as near as possible to his work, therefore, the demand is far greater than the supply for house accommodation.

A very striking example of house shortage is clearly demonstrated by the enormous demand for the tenancy of houses in course of erection at Glynneath, in which case over 200 applications have been made for sixteen houses erected by the Council.

In other parts of the area, houses built by private enterprise are frequently purchased by agreement before the foundations are scarcely completed, the purchaser being only too anxious to be removed from overcrowded apartments and relieved of excessive rental charges.

There is not to my knowledge any part of this Council's area containing an excess of housing accommodation.

(b) MEASURES TO BE TAKEN OR CONTEMPLATED TO MEET THE EXISTING HOUSING SHORTAGE.

The Council are now considering a scheme of providing houses distributed throughout each Parish upon the basis of one house per thousand of the assessable value; this basis of distribution does not in the slightest degree meet the house shortage conditions. For example, the parish of Neath Higher, Glynneath, would only receive a quota of another eight houses, whereas, owing to the prosperity of the Anthracite Collieries working full time daily the immediate provision of at least 600 houses is required to relieve the present overcrowding, and also to house the daily influx of workmen from other districts by train for whom no accommodation can be obtained.

The same reasons apply in the Parishes of Coedffranc, Dulais Higher and Lower *pro rata* with their present housing conditions and assessable value, according to the Council's proposed housing scheme.

There has been an annual increasing house shortage since 1919, which is really the aftermath of the war, men demobilized returning home to try and reinstate themselves, both as workers in their former employment and as residents, if accommodation could be obtained near their old homes, without any hope of success.

At the present rate of the provision of houses, the housing shortage will not be overtaken for many years, unless the cost of both labour and material will be reduced and greater facilities provided in the acquisition of land for building purposes.

Public Authorities should be assisted by the National Exchequer in providing financial assistance by way of longer period of loans for both the purchase of land and the erection of houses, of not less than 60 years or 80 years, for the repayment of capital and interest. Every working man should be encouraged to purchase and live in his own house. Housing sites should be selected within reasonable distance of the Industry.

(3) CHANGES IN POPULATION DURING PERIOD UNDER REVIEW.

During the period of trade depression covering the past three or four years, there has been changes in population frequently, but only of a temporary nature, owing to work being available only in certain localities. For example, it is recognized that from 700 to 800 workmen are carried by train and motor transport, to Glynneath daily, to work in the Anthracite Collieries, which provide regular employment to the men living in other townships where no work can be obtained owing to stoppage of industries.

It is also recognized that at least from 800 to 1,000 men are employed in the Dulais Valley Collieries, many of whom reside in outlying districts.

The natural conclusion is that if housing accommodation was provided, these men would not incur the expense of travelling a long distance to and from their work, exclusive of the physical fatigue endured.

(II.) OVERCROWDING

1.—EXTENT.

It is fully recognized that overcrowding exists to an enormous extent, more especially in the populated centres where regular employment is available, and as many as 18 to 20 reside in six-room houses, the occupants living and sleeping in the same room, in numbers far in excess of the regulation cubical space allotted to each person.

2.—CAUSES.

The cause is quite apparent and is finally answered by insufficient house accommodation, also the influx of population created by the employment available within these populated centres, chiefly where the Anthracite Collieries are situate, and other industries where work can be obtained.

3.—MEASURES CONTEMPLATED FOR DEALING WITH OVERCROWDING.

This is one of the most difficult problems the Public Authority has to deal with, for the reason that shelter, however crude, is gladly accepted by families who cannot obtain a house to live in under ordinary conditions. Although overcrowding creates unsanitary conditions, and is a menace to public health, unless alternative shelter can be provided upon improved conditions, no benefit would be obtained. Unless houses are provided for the most urgent cases of large families, overcrowding must continue.

(III.) FITNESS OF HOUSES.

(1) The general standard of housing in the area, generally speaking, with the exception of houses erected prior to the supervision of the public authority, can reasonably be considered as good commodious houses, substantially built, provided with sewers, water supply and lighting. Unfortunately, a very high percentage were not provided with fixed baths, which is most essential in every house.

TEMPORARY DWELLINGS, BUNGALOW TYPE.

Owing to the high cost of building, due to the increased cost of labour and material, a large number of persons have erected bungalows of a temporary type, constructed chiefly of timber, asbestos, and corrugated iron sheeting. It is most unfortunate that the overcrowding housing conditions compel people to adopt such methods; they spoil the landscape and also depreciate the value of better-class houses in the immediate vicinity. Further, they quickly become dilapidated, unless exceedingly well-built, and protected during heavy rain and stormy weather, the inmates must suffer from a health point of view.

The old houses, many of which are totally unfit for family accommodation under proper conditions, are still occupied, and a great boon to many families unable to find better accommodation.

Housing conditions becoming normal, these old houses, if taken down, would create building sites for houses to be erected under the most up-to-date conditions.

There are many derelict old houses unoccupied, and are most unsightly, which should be cleared, being a menace to both public health—as they are used as conveniences—and to the safety of young children.

GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE DEFECTS FOUND TO EXIST IN UNFIT HOUSES.

There are many houses rendered unfit owing to the bad state of repair, being allowed by the owners to become dilapidated, for the reason that they would rather have vacant houses than allow them to be occupied by persons who make no effort to pay rent, and yet the owners are further penalized in the payment of rates. It is unreasonable to ask house owners to incur further losses upon unremunerative property.

It cannot be said generally that defective property found as unfit houses is due to lack of proper management and supervision of the owners. In cases where the tenants will not attempt to pay rent, the owner would welcome a closing order to obtain possession and thereby recoup losses by the selection of good tenants.

In a large number of cases the acts of waste by damage and wilful neglect by tenants to houses they occupy is demoralising, the absence of cleanliness, thrift, and the desire to live decently is very striking. It cannot be expected that the Landlord should continually expend money to keep houses in decent repair when he has practically no control over his tenants.

(2) GENERAL ACTION TAKEN AS REGARDS UNFIT HOUSES.

(a) THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

Routine inspection is regularly carried out throughout the district, and where it is discovered that defects exist, and considered to be prejudicial to the health of the inhabitants, Intimation Notices are first served upon the owners. These Notices are later followed up to discover whether the work has been carried out. If after the second visit has been paid, and no attempt made to remedy defect, Statutory Notices are served. During the year it was not necessary to prosecute for failure to comply.

(b) THE HOUSING ACTS.

Owing to the congested conditions of housing accommodation, and the prevailing employment depression, the problem of remedying any unfitness found to exist in houses is exceedingly difficult. The Public Authority may proceed under the powers of the Public Health Act, or Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925, and many cases have been dealt with by preparing a specification of the necessary repairs, additional windows, improved ventilation, prevention of dampness, and other important factors for improved health conditions of the occupants. Owners having good tenants readily comply with reasonable alterations. Many house owners are called upon to undertake unnecessary expense in the maintenance and repair of property through the wilful neglect of their tenants to whom cleanliness is totally foreign; wilful damage is often done by children and even adult members of the family to many parts of the house interior, in which cases the Landlord is severely handicapped for remedy.

BACK TO BACK HOUSES.

Fortunately, within the Council's area, there are only a few back-to-back houses. Those that exist have been considerably improved by adopting up-to-date methods of through ventilation, enlarged windows properly constructed for opening, roof and exterior wall ventilators; wherever possible, each of this class of house has been placed in the most habitable state of repair and are in very good order.

Houses of the very old type, with thatched roofs, erected with very restricted back areas are difficult to improve by reason of structural conditions, where reasonably possible, many valuable improvements are carried out.

The general conditions, so far as they effect housing as regards the following, must be treated separately :—

WATER SUPPLY—SANITARY CONVENIENCES.

Every effort is made to provide an abundant water supply as a separate system to each house, direct from the Council's distribution mains, and there is no reason for any house to be short of water, if within reasonable distance of the mains.

If any house is connected to the sewers, all closets should be provided with flushing cisterns. In certain parts, the old "Ducket" system is still in vogue. The Inspectors acting under the Health and Water Departments fully satisfy themselves that each house has proper closet accommodation. During periodical inspections, it has been ascertained that the water fittings are defective: in each case notice to repair has been served upon the owners to execute the work within reasonable time. In many cases the repairs are done at owners' cost by Council's workmen.

(IV.) UNHEALTHY AREAS.

No complaints were received respecting unhealthy areas within the District nor representation made to the Council.

(V.) BYE-LAWS RELATING TO HOUSES, TO HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS, AND TENTS,
AND VANS, SHEDS, ETC.

The existing Bye-laws were made when the district was essentially rural in character. During the last twenty years it has become industrial in character, and, in consequence, revision of our Bye-laws on lines which are applicable to Urban Districts are much needed.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.

NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR:—

(a) Total (including number given separately under (b)) 179

(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts—

1.—By the Local Authority	....	....	Nil.
2.—By other bodies or persons		....	154

1.—UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES—Inspection.

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	880
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the housing (Inspection of District Regulations, 1910)	220
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation	4
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	86

2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS, WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	360
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3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

(A) Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	120
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit :—								
(a) By Owners	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	86
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	....	....	....					0
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by Owners of intention to close								0

(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	....	....	....	....	....	....	104
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied :—							
(a) By Owners	....	....	....	....	....	....	93
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	....	....	....	....	....	....	0

(C) Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15, of the Housing Act, 1925.

[illegible]

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.—The greater part of the milk supply is produced within the area, the producers themselves, with few exceptions, retail the milk either within the district or in the town of Neath. The milk brought into the district from outside areas is conveyed by rail from the Counties of Carmarthen and Cardigan, and retailed chiefly in Skewen and Neath Abbey; a portion also comes from Breconshire and retailed by the producers themselves who reside on the border of the district.

Up till 1923 the conditions existing in the Cowsheds were anything but desirable for the production of pure and wholesome milk.

From a structural point of view, the buildings were mostly built of stone and mortar, with slate roofs, and generally speaking were in a fair state of repair, while the remainder were dilapidated buildings constructed of wood or galvanized zinc.

The lighting and ventilation of all the buildings were insufficient, and usually the only means whereby changes of atmosphere could be obtained, were small wooden shutters (usually closed), the doors, and, in some instances, by long narrow vertical slits placed here and there in the walls about 3 feet above the level of the ground.

The cubic space per cow varied enormously, *viz.*, from 350 cubic feet to 800 cubic feet. The low cubic space discovered was usually found in those where hay lofts were in existence and in the improvised structures already referred to.

The floors were practically all of rough cobble stones, unevenly laid, and somewhat regardless to the drainage of liquid filth cast upon the floor. The manure channels behind the cows were wide and shallow, and seldom as much as three inches in depth. This kind of floor allowed soakage of filth into the ground, which made it most difficult, and in fact, impossible to keep clean.

The stand of the cowsheds invariably measured from 5-ft. 6-ins. to 7-ft. from the feeding trough to the manure channel, a condition which made it impossible to keep the stand clean, and was responsible for the dirty udders and hind quarters of the cattle stalled therein, as they had to lie in their own dung.

Water supply in the cowsheds was everywhere absent, and, in consequence, few if any were ever washed out; the other disadvantage that presented itself was that the cattle had to be turned out to water from a stuffy atmosphere, in all kinds of weather, and rendered them liable to chills and colic.

The arrangement of stalling differed in one district from the other, and also often in the same district, the variation depending, I take it, upon whose estate the farm originally belonged to, as each estate had its buildings constructed of a certain type and therefore the cattle had to be stalled accordingly; some head to head, with a feeding passage in between; others tail to tail, with a common manure channel, a few stalled in one row. In a large district like the Rural District of Neath this variation could only be expected, as the buildings were put up at a time when no model plans were in existence, and were meant for housing cattle during the winter, and that only, without consideration to those conditions that are necessary for the production of wholesome milk, and the well-being of the cattle housed therein, as evidenced by the cubic space allowed per cow, the lack of ventilation, lighting, insanitary floors, etc.

In the early part of 1923, a special effort was made to improve the cowsheds of the district respecting ventilation, lighting, cubic space, flooring, drainage, method of stalling, provision of water in the cowshed, provision of calf pens outside the byre, paving of outside area, removal of manure from the immediate vicinity of the cowshed.

The suggestions of the circular of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries with regard to construction and alterations of cowsheds were more or less adhered to when advising as to what alterations were necessary to each cowshed; a schedule of requirements, together with a rough sketch after inspection of the premises, was given to each cow-keeper to enable him to carry out the work satisfactorily.

The number of Producers on the Register in 1925 ....	....	....	....	171
„ „ that put up new cowsheds ....	....	....	....	6
„ „ who have completed alterations ....	....	....	....	76
„ „ that are in course of construction ....	....	....	....	32
„ „ that are in course of alterations ....	....	....	....	35
„ „ that have material on the ground ready to commence ....	....	....	....	11
„ „ that have up to the present not started the work ....	....	....	....	24
„ „ who gave up the trade during the year—change of tenancy, death, etc. ....	....	....	....	17
„ „ on the 31st December, 1925....	....	....	....	154

It will be seen from the foregoing table that the farmers within your district, generally speaking, are more alive to clean milk production than hitherto, in the way they have responded to the request made of them to alter or reconstruct their premises, and also by the attention now paid to the cleansing of the premises, grooming of the cattle, the washing of hands before milking, and the sterilisation of the milk utensils. It would be a fair statement to make that many producers retail a milk which comes up to the standard of Grade "A" milk, or at least closely approximating it. It is to be regretted that holders of Licences to sell the various grades of milk under the Milk (Special Designations) Order are compelled to pay a fee, whereas if this restriction were done away with, or the expense be borne by the County Council instead, an inducement would be given immediately to the producer to supply milk of a better standard to the public. It has been my experience that producers are not prepared to incur this expense without some remuneration for their outlay.

The taking of samples of milk and the examination of tubercular cattle are carried out by the County Council; information regarding tubercular carcasses discovered at the slaughterhouses is transmitted to that Authority to follow up and deal with.

No Licences have been granted for the sale of milk under the Special Designations, and no type of apparatus has been licensed for the pasteurisation of milk.

There are in addition to the 171 Producers of Milk 24 Retailers.

The Dairies, on the whole, are of a good standard, and require little or no improvement.

There were some two or three years ago a dozen small milk retailers who were not in possession of a Dairy of Milk-shop, and were, in consequence, without a proper place for the storing and sterilizing of milk utensils. This defect has now been overcome by an agreement made between the wholesaler and retailer by payment of a small sum for sterilizing and storing of the milk utensils on the wholesalers' premises.

No refusal or revocation of registration of retailers of milk were made during the year.

Twenty-two samples were taken during the year.

SUMMARY OF BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS :—

- Under 10,000 Organisms= 5. Three of these samples contained B. Coli in 1 c.c., not in 1/10th c.c. Remaining 2, no B. Coli in 1 c.c.
- 10-15,000 Organisms = 5. The 5 samples contained B. Coli in 1 c.c., and not in 1/10th c.c.
- 15-20,000 Organisms = 0.
- 20-25,000 Organisms = 5. In three samples, B. Coli present in 1 c.c., not in 1/10th c.c.
One sample, B. Coli in 1/10th c.c., not in 1/100th c.c.
One sample, B. Coli not in 1 c.c.
- 25-30,000 Organisms = .3 One sample showed no B. Coli in 1 c.c.
One sample, B. Coli in 1 c.c., not in 1/10th c.c.
One sample, B. Coli in 1/10th c.c., not in 1/100th c.c.
- 30-35,000 Organisms = 1. B. Coli in 1/100th c.c., not in 1/10th c.c.
- 100-200,000 Organisms = 2. One sample B. Coli in 1 c.c., not in 1/10th c.c. The other B. Coli in 1/10th c.c., not in 1/100th c.c.
The last sample contained 760,000 Organisms (growing at 37°C.) in 1 c.c.

(b) MEAT.—The Slaughterhouses of the district are inspected on the prescribed days of killing, the carcasses being inspected at the time of slaughter or soon afterwards. It has been impossible to inspect all carcasses during the year, and that can be attributed almost entirely to an insufficient staff to carry out this work as well as the other duties laid down in the Sanitary Officers' Order, 1922.

The Meat Regulations of 1924 makes it more difficult to carry out meat inspection than hitherto, owing to the fact that "occasional killing" on unlicensed premises is now possible, whereas previously the persons who, during the course of twelve months, had two, three or four animals (pigs, sheep and lambs) to slaughter for the purpose of sale, were slaughtered at a slaughterhouse, where they could be conveniently inspected, now notify my department of their intention to slaughter their animals on their own premises; and inasmuch as a large number are in the habit of this "occasional killing"—a condition which prevails in most Rural Districts—meat inspection, in consequence, is made exceedingly difficult to cope with on account of the time taken to travel long distances, possibly to inspect one carcass.

All diseased meat discovered is buried after being rendered uneatable by the pouring of paraffin, etc., this duty being carried out by the Inspector.

Shops, Stores, etc., on the whole are of a fair standard and comply with the requirements of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.

In the district there are no public slaughter-houses, the licensees of the six private slaughter-houses allow killing in their respective slaughter-houses to local butchers, etc., at a nominal fee.

					<i>In 1920</i>	<i>In January, 1925</i>	<i>In December, 1925.</i>
Registered	....	....	....	....	0	0	0
Licensed	....	....	....	....	8	5	6
					—	—	—
Total	....	....	....	....	8	5	6
					—	—	—

The difference in the figures above, for 1920, and January, 1925, is accounted owing to portions of the district being annexed to Neath Borough and the Borough of Port Talbot. In December, 1925, a new slaughter-house was licensed to a wholesale butcher in the Parish of Blaenhonddan.

(c) OTHER FOODS.—A systematic inspection of all articles of food is carried out at the various business premises throughout the district. Every facility is given by the Shopkeepers to the Inspector, and so much is this inspection appreciated by the tradesmen that doubtful articles are put aside ready for the visit of the Inspector or an application is made direct requesting an inspection to be made. With regard to any difficulties arising in dealing with sanitary conditions, existing powers have proved adequate.

(d) No case of Food Poisoning has occurred during the year.

The following food-stuffs were voluntarily surrendered during the year :—

52 Tins of Tomatoes.
 29 Tins of Milk.
 37 Tins of Pears.
 29 Tins of Chunks.
 34 Tins of Salmon
 1 Tin of Allies Bristlings.
 6 Tins of Peaches.
 2 Tins of Apricots.
 7 Tins of Sardines.
 2 Tins of Corned Beef.
 10 Tins of Raspberries.
 270 Lbs. of Livers.
 92 Lbs. of Latvian Gammons.
 1 Carcase of Sheep.
 1 Bovine Head.
 1 Carcase of Beef.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES—GENERALLY.

During the period under review the district as a whole did not suffer an excessive incidence from any of the notifiable infectious diseases.

In 1921, outbreaks of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria occurred in the Seven Sisters Valley; Seventy-eight cases of the former and one hundred cases of the latter. Both outbreaks came to an end very rapidly considering the difficulties that had to be contended with, since all cases had to be isolated in the home, often under abnormal overcrowding owing to the shortage of houses, and no hospital accommodation to be offered through lack of provision made for Infectious Diseases; therefore reliance from further spread depended very largely upon the manner in which the patients, contacts, etc., observed the instructions contained in the pamphlets that were distributed. The outbreak of Diphtheria was traced to Seven Sisters Council School, and in conjunction with the School Medical Officer of the County of Glamorgan, the children's throats were swabbed, when it was discovered that two of the scholars attending school harboured the Diphtheria Bacillus, although not suffering themselves from the disease caused by this organism. These two carriers were excluded from school, isolated at their homes, and treated by the Medical Practitioner; no further cases occurred after this procedure. The two carriers were allowed to return after three consecutive negative swabs had been obtained.

The outbreak of Scarlet Fever in Glynneath, in 1922 and 1923, was endemic and was confined to the children attending the Council Schools of Glynneath and Cwmgwrach. The first cases occurred in the unsewered portion of this part of your district; 156 cases occurred, in 1923, in Glynneath, with a population of 6,401, as against 11 cases for the remainder of the district, with a population of 35,825; and 143, in 1923, as against 23 in the remainder of the district.

A supply of Diphtheria-Antitoxin is issued free of charge to Medical Practitioners attending cases within the district, and is available by night as well as day. During the day it can be delivered to any of the practitioners in less than an hour, either by rail or 'bus; during night time it has to be sent for. In order to obviate the necessity of sending for antitoxin during the night, the practitioners who live some distance away are generally supplied with two ampoules of 8,000 units each, for emergency, a record being kept in the Department as to number supplied and amount used by the practitioner for each particular case, in this way a check is kept to avoid it being used in cases other than diphtheria.

It is customary amongst the practitioners to administer 8,000 to 12,000 units—depending upon the age of the patient—in all doubtful cases, even before the result of a bacteriological examination has been obtained.

During the five years under review, only one case of Encephalitis Lethargica was notified, the patient made a perfect recovery from her illness.

During the first two or three years after Pneumonia became notifiable, a certain doubt evidently existed in the minds of the Practitioners as to what types of cases of Pneumonia the Regulations of 7th January, 1919, referred to, with the result that Influenzal cases were notified as Pneumonia, and more often than not, Broncho-Pneumonias were not notified; the first information being obtained by the department through the Registrar's Returns.

It is therefore readily understood why the number of deaths from Pneumonia (all forms) exceeded the number of notifications received.

The examination of pathological and bacteriological specimens for the district is undertaken by the Cardiff and County Public Health Laboratory, at a fixed scale of charges, agreed upon by the Joint Committee of the Cardiff Corporation and Glamorgan County Council.

1.—WATER.—During the year 1925, eight samples of water were submitted for analysis. Seven samples were reported upon as satisfactory, both chemically and bacteriologically. One sample which was obtained from a well on Tyllwyd Farm where, in addition to the tenant, a few Cottagers obtained their supply, was unsatisfactory, typical *Bacillus Coli* being isolated from $\frac{1}{2}$ -c.c. of water; this water was condemned for drinking purposes; the inhabitants are now supplied from the Ystradfellte Water Works.

2.—SWABS.—Thirty-two swabs were sent to the Laboratory for the identification of the Diphtheria Bacillus, eleven of which proved positive, and 21 were negative.

3.—SPUTA.—Nineteen specimens were submitted for examination, seven were found to contain Tubercle Bacilli, the remaining twelve were negative.

Up to the present no use has been made of the Shick and Dick tests in Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever.

No primary vaccinations or re-vaccinations were performed by your Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health (Small-pox Prevention) Regulations, 1917, but owing to Small-pox being epidemic in some of the English Counties, the Public Vaccinators, fearing the spread of the disease to this area, succeeded in vaccinating some 800 adults and children of school age.

Intimation concerning any of the non-notifiable infectious diseases occurring in any part of the district is obtained through the Health Visitors, Sanitary Officers, and occasionally Head Teachers of Council Schools.

In 1922, which, in your district, might be regarded as a year of epidemics, the following schools were closed on account of Measles:—Bryncoch Council Schools, Neath Abbey Infants' Council School, and Cadoxton Infants' School.

On receipt of notifications from Head Teachers, a visit is paid to the school to investigate the extent of outbreaks, and if school closure be advisable, the practice is to concur with the School Medical Officer previous to doing so.

The mortality rate from Influenza, in 1922 and 1923, was higher in your district than that for England and Wales, London, the 105 County Boroughs and Great Towns (census population exceeding 50,000), and the 155 smaller towns (population 20,000-50,000), but lower for 1921, 1924 and 1925.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of Deaths</i>	<i>Mortality Rate per 1,000 Population</i>
1921	10	0·20
1922	40	0·94
1923	10	0·25
1924	10	0·30
1925	8	0·20

Facilities for the cleansing and disinfection of verminous persons and their belongings are not provided by the Council, for the reason that the number of instances within the area does not warrant the expenditure involved.

When occasion arises that cleansing, disinfection of premises and articles are necessary, the homes, including bedding, etc., are disinfected by the Sanitary Staff; the home is visited at a later date to ascertain as to re-infection.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis).

The following table gives the incidence of notifiable infectious diseases in the area during the year 1925, together with the number of cases admitted to Hospital and the number of total deaths :—

<i>Disease</i>						<i>Total Cases Notified</i>	<i>Cases Admitted to Hospital</i>	<i>Total Deaths</i>
Small-pox	....	....	....	....	....	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	....	....	....	....	....	75	0	1
Diphtheria	....	....	....	....	....	24	1*	3
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)						0	0	0
Puerperal Fever	....	....	....	....	....	2	0	0
Pneumonia	....	....	....	....	....	38	0	25
Encephalitis Lethargica	....	....	....	....	....	1	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	....	....	....	....	....	4	0	0
Erysipelas	....	....	....	....	....	5	0	0

* Admitted to Hospital outside the District.

The table given below shows the age-distribution of the Notifiable Infectious Diseases :—

<i>Disease.</i>	All Ages	Under 1 Year	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65 & over
Scarlet Fever	75	1	0	0	10	11	33	9	3	6	1	1	0
Diphtheria	24	1	2	1	1	2	13	2	0	1	1	0	0
Puerperal Fever	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Pneumonia	38	1	1	1	1	2	9	2	7	5	3	2	3
Erysipelas	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

NUMBER OF DEATHS :—

The following table shows the number of deaths from Infectious Diseases during the year, as well as age-distribution :—

<i>Disease</i>	<i>All Ages</i>	<i>Under 1 year</i>	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	<i>65 and over</i>
Diphtheria	3	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Small Pox	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enteric Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pneumonia(all forms)	25	6	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	8
Scarlet Fever	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Erysipelas	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0

The following table shows the incidence of Scarlet Fever, Enteric Fever, Puerperal Fever, Erysipelas and Diphtheria (per 1,000 population) since 1911 :—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Scarlet Fever</i>	<i>Enteric Fever</i>	<i>Diphtheria</i>	<i>Puerperal Fever</i>	<i>Erysipelas</i>
1911	5·81	0·12	3·00	0·05	0·17
1912	3·70	0·19	0·99	0·05	0·24
1913	6·71	0·30	1·78	0·05	0·37
1914	8·74	0·18	1·56	0·02	0·42
1915	10·53	0·30	1·28	0·12	0·40
1916	3·44	0·50	1·05	0·12	0·38
1917	3·85	0·07	0·45	0·02	0·26
1918	1·30	0·12	0·25	0·00	0·22
1919	0·55	0·02	0·23	0·04	0·08
1920	1·54	0·06	0·97	0·08	0·08
1921	3·30	0·06	2·99	0·10	0·06
1922	4·00	0·04	0·87	0·09	0·09
1923	4·29	0·00	0·59	0·05	0·02
1924	2·09	0·00	0·60	0·02	0·17
1925	1·87	0·00	0·57	0·04	0·09

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods			NEW CASES				DEATHS			
			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 Year to	1 Year	....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	„ 5 Years	....	2	0	1	3	1	0	0	0
5	„ 10 „	....	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
10	„ 15 „	....	2	0	0	2	0	1	2	0
15	„ 20 „	....	4	5	4	2	0	3	2	0
20	„ 25 „	....	3	6	1	5	1	8	0	0
25	„ 35 „	....	6	7	2	3	2	6	2	1
35	„ 45 „	....	2	4	0	3	2	1	1	2
45	„ 55 „	....	5	0	2	1	0	0	1	0
55	„ 65 „	....	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
65 Years and upwards		....	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Total		....	25	22	10	20	10	19	8	3

The Death-Rates from Tuberculosis (since 1911) are shown in the following table:—

	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
General															
Death-rate ...	14.6	12.0	13.4	12.5	14.2	13.2	11.3	14.7	11.3	11.6	11.2	11.6	10.8	9.8	10.2
Pulmonary															
Tuberculosis..	0.92	0.66	0.64	0.73	0.95	0.98	1.26	0.93	0.88	0.86	1.08	0.63	0.98	0.90	0.72
Tuberculosis															
(Other forms)	0.36	0.23	0.40	0.18	0.30	0.31	0.33	0.18	0.28	0.28	0.18	0.16	0.15	0.17	0.27
Tuberculosis															
(All forms) ...	1.28	0.89	1.04	0.91	1.25	1.29	1.59	1.11	1.16	1.15	1.26	0.80	1.13	1.08	0.99

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925.

No person suffering from Tuberculosis of the respiratory tract has been discovered to be connected in the milking of cows, treatment of milk, or the handling of vessels containing milk within the area.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925—SECTION 62.

No sections of the Public Health Act, 1925, has, as yet, been adopted by the Council, although certain sections are under consideration for adoption.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED.—Sub-District Distribution.

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	Scarlet Fever	Diphth- eria	Enteric Fever	Puerperal Fever	Ophthal- mia Neo- natorum	Erysip- elas	Pneu- monia	Enceph- alitis Le- thargica	Tuberculosis	
									Pul- monary	Non-Pul- monary
Dyffais Valley { Onllwyn Seven Sisters Crynant Total	18 10 0 28	2 0 0 2	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	3 0 2 5	0 0 1 1	4 2 2 8	0 2 3 5
GLYN NEATH Valley { Pontneathvaughan (Glam.) Rhigos.... Glyneath & Pontwalby Cwmgrach Resolven, Clyne & Melincourt Total	0 1 9 2 22 34	0 4 3 1 8 16	0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 1 0 1 2	0 0 0 1 1 2	0 0 2 0 2 4	0 0 15 5 0 20	0 0 0 0 0 0	0 1 9 3 2 15	0 1 6 2 2 11
SOUTHERN DISTRICT { Coedfranc Parish Neath Abbey Bryncoch Rhyddings Cadoxton Cilfrew Aberdulais Tonna Total	3 0 2 0 0 5 1 2 13	2 0 1 0 2 1 0 0 6	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 2	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	6 3 2 0 1 0 0 1 13	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	14 4 2 0 0 1 0 0 21	8 4 0 1 1 0 0 0 14
AFAN Valley { Pontrhydyfen and Tonmawr Total (all Districts)	0 75	0 24	0 0	0 2	0 4	0 4	0 38	0 1	3 47	0 30

NEATH RURAL DISTRICT.—BIRTH-RATES, DEATH-RATES, Etc., since 1911.

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Year	Estimated Population	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Principal Epidemic Diseases.						Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 Births		
				Total	Small pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Diphth-eria	Whoop- ing Cough		Enteric Fever	†Diarr- hoea and Enteritis
1891	*24,397											
1901	*28,282											
	*41,613											
1911	41,964	30.9	14.6	2.31	0.00	0.28	0.04	0.54	0.11	0.02	1.28	151
1912	43,378	31.7	12.0	1.70	0.00	0.48	0.04	0.20	0.55	0.06	0.34	90
1913	44,807	29.8	13.4	1.87	0.00	0.35	0.11	0.22	0.15	0.08	0.93	119
1914	44,962	32.5	12.5	1.00	0.00	0.04	0.02	0.33	0.17	0.04	0.37	103
1915	42,929	29.4	14.2	1.35	0.00	0.23	0.16	0.20	0.39	0.04	0.30	113
1916	†41,805	25.7	13.2	0.95	0.00	0.02	0.07	0.38	0.09	0.07	0.31	111
1917	†42,652	23.1	11.3	0.70	0.00	0.46	0.07	0.02	0.04	0.04	0.04	79
1918	†40,784	24.9	14.7	0.51	0.02	0.19	0.02	0.04	0.09	0.02	0.09	93
1919	†47,345	22.1	11.3	0.59	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.04	0.25	0.00	0.27	89
1920	48,430	29.9	11.6	0.61	0.00	0.12	0.06	0.18	0.06	0.00	0.18	92
1921	(a)48,176	28.5	11.2	0.66	0.00	0.04	0.06	0.31	0.02	0.00	0.22	73
1922	(b)42,226	24.2	11.6	0.56	0.00	0.09	0.04	0.14	0.16	0.02	0.09	89
1923	38,650	24.6	10.8	0.62	0.00	0.31	0.00	0.05	0.12	0.00	0.12	80
1924	39,650	22.7	9.8	0.32	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.07	0.10	0.00	0.12	80
1925	40,080	22.6	10.2	0.72	0.00	0.32	0.02	0.07	0.09	0.00	0.19	81

* These figures are Census Populations.

† Registrar-General's death-rate (*i.e.*, civilian) population.

‡ Diarrhoea and Enterics under 2 years of age.

The Birth-rate population for 1916, 1917, 1918, and 1919 were respectively, 45,485, 47,545, 46,697, and 49,319. (a) The estimated population has been adjusted so as to exclude areas transferred on 19th August and 9th November, 1921, to the Borough of Port Talbot.

(b) The population of 42,226 has been adjusted for the calculation of the Birth and Death Rates.

The estimated mid-year population as before the 9th of November, 1922—when Melyn Ward of Llantwit Lower belonged to the Rural District—is 42,920. The population, mid-year as on the 9th November, 1922, is 38,140

The Statutory Committee appointed for this purpose consists of 16 Members of the Council, with 10 co-opted Members.

The work carried out is comprised of:—

- (1) Visiting infants and children up to the age of five years.
- (2) Visiting expectant mothers, and
- (3) To attend at the various child welfare centres.

There are three Health Visitors, each responsible for a separate district, two of whom give their whole time to the combined duties of health visiting of infants and children up to 5 years of age, pregnant mothers, attendance at Welfare Centres,—the third in addition to the above duties carries out Tuberculosis visiting.

The Notification of Births Act, which requires notification of all births, and still-births occurring after the 28th week of pregnancy, to be notified to the Medical Officer of Health within 36 hours, forms the basis of health visiting. Generally speaking, the provisions of the Act are observed by those responsible.

The number of Births reported to the Health Department during the year was 904, as under:—

(a) Notified under the Notification of Births Acts, 1907 and 1915:—

By Midwives	....	....	873
By Medical Practitioners	....	....	13
By Relatives and others	2
			<hr/>
			888

(b) Reported by Local Registrars—

(Not previously notified)	0
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Reported by Health Visitors—

(Not previously notified)	16
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Total	<hr/> 904
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This total is exclusive of 47 Still-births.

The Local Registrars supply the Health Department with a weekly list of all children registered by them, these lists are checked with the notified births to detect if any births registered are not notified.

Sixteen births occurred in the district that were not notified but were discovered by the Health Visitors during their routine work previous to registration.

VISITS PAID BY THE HEALTH VISITORS DURING THE YEAR.

To Expectant Mothers—First Visits, 146	....	Total Visits	365
„ Infants under 1 year—First Visits, 938	....	Total Visits	3,939
„ Children, 1-5 years	....	Total Visits	6,063
„ Still-births enquiries	....	Total Visits	47
Total Visits	....		<u>10,414</u>

For some years, it has been the practice to pay the first visit to Infants immediately on receipt of Notification of Birth, and while the Mid-wife is still in attendance upon the case. The result is that a better understanding has been developed between the Mid-wives and Health Visitors, and this is a factor of some importance in obtaining the confidence of the Mothers for subsequent visits, as well as the education of the Mother regarding breast-feeding, etc.

By co-operation of mid-wives and health visitors of the District, a large number of mothers now breast-feed their infants, who in the ordinary way would have resorted to artificial feeding.

At the first visit all particulars concerning the Mother, Infant, home conditions, and so forth, are recorded on the Birth Enquiry Cards. The following is afterwards aimed at:—a weekly visit for the first month; afterwards, every three months until the age of 18 months, and every six months for children between 18 months and 5 years, excepting those who reside in remote and isolated parts of the district where visits are paid less frequent.

As previously stated, there are six Infant Clinics within the district. The following table shows the number of new cases; attendances; with average attendances at each Centre:—

<i>Centre</i>	<i>New Cases</i>	<i>Attendances</i>	<i>Average Attendances</i>
Skewen	213	1,828	76
Glynneath	133	1,531	56
Resolven	122	1,441	55
Seven Sisters	78	932	35
Aberdulais	86	464	17
Llandarcy	16	145	5
Total	<u>648</u>	<u>6,341</u>	<u>244</u>

Every child brought to the Clinic for the first time is weighed (undressed) by the nurse, and then medically examined by the Medical Officer as a matter of routine, the result of same being recorded on the Medical Sheet for future guidance. The mother is instructed in the care and feeding of her infant, and presented with a booklet dealing upon the subject. This, rather than the treatment of the sick, is the main function of the Centre. If, after examination, treatment is required, the attention of the family doctor is always advised. At the same time, incidental treatment for minor ailments is undertaken since it is found that, for minor ailments, the service of the family doctor is not as a rule sought. The mother and her baby attend usually once a fortnight at first, later the visits are less frequent, unless the child does not make normal progress.

INFANT MORTALITY.

Number of deaths during 1925, among infants under 1 year	81
Infant Mortality Rate	89.3
Infant Mortality Rate in Legitimate Infants	90.3
Infant Mortality Rate in Illegitimate Infants	60.6

The greatest factors contributing to Infant Mortality are: Prematurity, which caused 21 deaths; Respiratory Diseases, 15 deaths; Convulsions accounted for 9 deaths; Diseases of the Alimentary System, 8.

Ante-natal consultations for expectant mothers is afforded at the Centres, but has not been encouraged since the number of infants that have to be attended to will not allow the time, and only those who are really in need of advice or treatment have been seen up to the present. There is a scheme on foot to establish one Centre to meet the needs of the district, and at a later date, to establish more if that be considered necessary. Undoubtedly this is a step in the right direction to save infant life, to say nothing of alleviation of suffering on the part of the mothers.

When ante-natal clinics are established, it is to be hoped that the practising mid-wives will induce their patients to attend.

Although the Council have made no official arrangements regarding the treatment of orthopaedic cases, the custom in the past has been to advise Hospital Treatment at either the Prince of Wales Hospital, Cardiff, or the General Hospital, Swansea.

I strongly urge that the Council take steps to make arrangements with the Prince of Wales Hospital so that cases may be admitted for indoor or outdoor treatment as may be.

There are no voluntary societies in the area in connection with Maternity and Child Welfare work.

PUERPERAL FEVER.—Two cases were notified during the year, one terminated fatally.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.—Four cases were notified, one case by a mid-wife and three by Medical Practitioners.

EPIDEMIC DIARRHOEA.—Eight deaths of children under two years of age were registered.

WHOOPIING COUGH.—This disease was not very prevalent; nearly all cases were reported by the Health Visitors. Four deaths were registered.

MEASLES.—It is difficult to estimate the number of cases that occurred in the district since the regulations enforcing notification on Medical Practitioners have been withdrawn; most of the cases were discovered by Health Visitors in the course of their ordinary duties, and from information received in this way the disease was fairly prevalent.

Thirteen deaths were registered.

POLIOMYELITIS.—No case was notified.

Leaflets giving directions for preventing the spread of infectious diseases are left at the infected houses.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

Cases			Vision Unimpaired	Vision Impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
Notified	Treated					
	At Home	Hospital				
4	4	0	4	0	0	0

YSTRADFELLTE.

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report for the part of your District in the County of Brecon.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.—This Parish has an acreage of 19,355 acres. The entire area is Agricultural, with the exception of two small villages.

POPULATION.—The Census population of this Parish, in 1921, was 613; the estimated population of the Registrar General for 1925 was 671. The table given below shows the increase population since 1891.

Census, 1891	....	....	....	....	594
Census, 1901	....	....	....	....	549
Census, 1911	....	....	....	....	627
Census, 1921	....	....	....	....	613
Estimated Population, 1925	....	....	....	....	671

The Physical features and general character of this Parish is described in the first part of the Report in conjunction with the Rural District of Neath.

The Rateable Value of this Parish is £8,158; the sum represented by a Penny Rate amounts to £34.

The occupation of the Inhabitants is almost entirely Agricultural.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.—According to the Registrar General, the total number of births registered amounted to 12, (4 males, 8 females).

The number of births, *i.e.*, 12, corresponds to an Annual Birth-rate of 17·8 per 1,000 of the population.

DISTRIBUTION—(SEXES—LEGITIMACY) :—

	<i>Births.</i>		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	....	....	4	8	12
Illegitimate	....	....	0	0	0
			—	—	—
	Total	....	4	8	12
			—	—	—

DEATHS.—The number of deaths during the year was three (3 males), making a death-rate of 4·4 per 1,000 of the population.

There were two deaths of Infants under 1 year, making an Infant mortality rate of 166·6 per 1,000 births.

There are no Mid-wives residing in this part of the District, but occasionally Mid-wives residing in outside areas attend cases in this Parish.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.—This heading has been dealt with in the first part of the Report.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.—WATER. The water supply of this Parish with the exception of that portion of Pontneathvaughan, is supplied from wells. The water-supply is good and plentiful and not subject to pollution.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.—The Rivers and Streams of this Parish are practically free from any pollution, inasmuch as the population is small and scattered and no industries within the Parish.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—The small village of Ystradfellte, which consists of some six houses, was provided with a Slop-water Sewer during the year under review. The sewage is carried away some 300 yards from the houses and emptied into a large cesspool, which the Council periodically clean out.

That portion of the village of Pontneathvaughan which is in the County of Brecon, is also provided with a Slop-Water System.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—All Closets in the Parish of Ystradfellte are of the Pail System, the contents being buried in fields or gardens.

SCAVENGING.—The system of scavenging at Pontneathvaughan is house-to-house collections three times a week. The Bins which were in existence previous to this system have been removed.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS OR REGULATIONS. This has been dealt with in the first part of the Report.

HOUSING.

The housing problem is dealt with in the first part of the report, and applies generally to this Parish, only that shortage of houses and overcrowding which are so predominant a feature in the Rural District are not so marked.

*Nature of Defects.**Informal
Notices*

Dwellings	....	Defective walls, floors, troughing, ventilation, lighting, etc.....	....	6
		New Pantries	....	0
		Dampness	....	0
		Want of Cleanliness	....	0
Drains	....	Defective Traps, Gullies, etc.	....	8
		Choked or foul	....	4
		New Drains	....	2
Yards	....	Defective and unpaved	....	0
		Neglect of Cleanliness	....	0
		Other Nuisances in yards	....	0
Privies	....	New Pail Closets erected	....	0
		Dis-repair	....	4
		New Pails provided	....	0
		Neglect of Cleanliness	....	0
		Conversion of Privies into Pail Closets	....	2
Cesspools	....	Foul or defective	....	3
Factories, Workshops and Bakehouses	....		....	0
Provision, Butcher, Fish and Fruit, Dairies, Milk-shops and Ice-cream Shops	....		....	0
Barber Shops	....		....	0
Picture Halls	....		....	0
Rats and Mice	....		....	0
Urinals	....		....	0
Refuse Removal	....		....	4

1.—UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES—INSPECTION.

1.—Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	42
2.—Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the housing (inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	6
3.—Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation	0
4.—Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	6

2.—REMEDY FOR DEFECTS, WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	8
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3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

(a) Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs	6
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit—	
(a) By Owners	4
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	0
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by Owners of intention to close	0

(b) PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	8
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied—	
(a) By Owners	6
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	6

(c) PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 11, 14 & 15 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1925.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	0
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	0
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	0
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	0

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Total Cases Notified</i>	<i>Cases admitted to Hospital</i>	<i>Total Deaths</i>
Small-pox	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	1	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)....	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever	0	0	0
Pneumonia	4	0	0
Erysipelas	2	0	0

NUMBER NOTIFIED :—

The following table shows the number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year, as well as age-distribution :—

<i>Disease</i>	<i>All Ages</i>	<i>Under 1 Year</i>	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	25	35	45	55	65
Scarlet Fever....	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pneumonia	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0
Erysipelas	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	8	0	0

TUBERCULOSIS.

<i>Age Periods</i>	<i>New Cases</i>				<i>Deaths.</i>			
	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>		<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
35	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
45	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 and upwards	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.—There are no Infant Welfare Centres in this part of your district, but owing to the proximity of the Glynneath Centre, situate on the Pontneathvaughan Road, a very fair percentage of Infants and Children residing in this part of your area are able to attend the Clinic.

No cases of Puerperal Fever, Ophthalmia Neonatorum and Poliomyelitis were notified during the year, or cases of Measles, Whooping Cough, Epidemic Diarrhoea and other diseases of parturient women, infants, and young children discovered.

